

1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?

I owned and operated several small business such as a chain of convenience stores (Criger's Grocery), a clothing store, and a mail-order company.

2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?

I have lived in this riding for the past 40 years with my wife and son.

3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?

My stores employed many young people in our rural riding who have now become leaders in the community. We have also sponsored baseball and other sports teams in our community.

4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?

When running my convenience stores I would meet so many diverse people from across this riding who would come in and talk politics, day in and say out for 40 years. So it is the people of this community that have made the biggest impression on me. I also like the songs of Stompin' Tom Connors who happens to have a song about the Ottawa Valley (Big Joe Mufferaw).

5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?

Ross Perot recently passed away. He and Preston Manning struck me as honest people who wanted to help their country using common sense.

6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?

People tell me that politicians here do not listen to them. They feel left behind and have no say in government. Business in the Ottawa Valley is still done on a handshake. I am ambitious enough and optimistic enough to know that I can bring values like that to Ottawa.

7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?

I don't think that Canadians are disillusioned with politics; they are disillusioned with *politicians* and the way they behave. As an Independent, my very election would send a

strong message. I will bring a fresh conservative perspective to Ottawa. I want to dedicate the next four years to helping the people of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke succeed because I believe the spirit of hard work and success is within us all.